

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a photosensitive body on which a photosensitive layer is provided; and

a charger opposed to the photosensitive body for charging a surface of the photosensitive body,

wherein an interval between the surface of the photosensitive body and the charger is narrower on a first side of the photosensitive body than on a second side thereof, and

wherein the second side is located on an opposite end of the photosensitive body from the first side.
2. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the charger is a scorotron charger having a discharge electrode and a grid, and

an interval between the grid and the surface of the photosensitive body is narrower on the first side of the photosensitive body than on the second side thereof.
3. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the interval between the grid and the surface of the photosensitive body is narrower on the first side of the

photosensitive body than on the second side thereof by changing heights of grid supporting portions for supporting both sides of the grid.

4. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the charger has a discharge electrode, and

an interval between the discharge electrode and the surface of the photosensitive body is narrower on the first side of the photosensitive body than on the second side thereof by changing heights of discharge electrode supporting portions for supporting both sides of the discharge electrode.

5. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the charger is provided with a roller with a taper so as to have a large diameter on a side corresponding to the first side of the photosensitive body and a small diameter on a side corresponding to the second side of the photosensitive body.

6. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the taper of the roller is provided by forming a surface layer thereof by dipping.

7. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the photosensitive layer is formed by dipping.

8. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the first side of the photosensitive body corresponds to an upper portion and the second side of the photosensitive body corresponds to a lower portion when the dipping is performed to the photosensitive body.

9. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the charger is provided with a pair of spacers on both sides thereof for rectifying the interval between the surface of the photosensitive body and the charger by being brought into contact with the surface of the photosensitive body.

10. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 9, characterized in that the pair of spacers are provided with different colors.

11. (original): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a photosensitive body on which a photosensitive layer is provided; and

a charger having a discharge electrode and a grid opposed to the photosensitive body for charging a surface of the photosensitive body,

wherein an aperture rate of the grid is larger on a first side of the photosensitive body than on a second side thereof.

12. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the photosensitive layer is formed by dipping.

13. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the first side of the photosensitive body corresponds to an upper portion and the second side of the photosensitive body corresponds to a lower portion when the dipping is performed to the photosensitive body.

14. (original): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a photosensitive body on which a photosensitive layer is provided; and

a charger having a discharge electrode and a back plate having an aperture and opposed to the photosensitive body for charging a surface of the photosensitive body,

wherein an aperture rate of the back plate is smaller on a first side of the photosensitive body than on a second side thereof.

15. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the photosensitive layer is formed by dipping.

16. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the first side of the photosensitive body corresponds to an upper portion and the second side of the photosensitive body corresponds to a lower portion when the dipping is performed to the photosensitive body.

17. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein an airflow is provided along the back plate so that air is discharged.

18. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the photosensitive body is arranged such that a first side of the photosensitive body is disposed on an upstream side of the airflow and a second side of the photosensitive body is disposed on a downstream side of the airflow.

19. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein an insulator sheet is applied to an outer face of the back plate so as to cover at least a portion of the aperture.

20. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the insulating sheet is applied to the outer face of the back plate so as to cover a portion of the aperture while leaving another portion of the aperture uncovered on the downstream side of the airflow.

21. (original): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a photosensitive body on which a photosensitive layer is provided; and

a charger having a discharge electrode, a back plate and an insulator sheet applied to an inner face of the back plate opposed to the photosensitive body for charging a surface of the photosensitive body,

wherein an applying rate of the insulator sheet is smaller on a first side of the photosensitive body than on a second side of the photosensitive body.

22. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein the photosensitive layer is formed by dipping.

23. (original): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the first side of the photosensitive body corresponds to an upper portion and the second side of the photosensitive body corresponds to a lower portion when the dipping is performed to the photosensitive body.

24. (new): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a photosensitive body on which a photosensitive layer is provided; and

a charger opposed the photosensitive body for charging a surface of the photosensitive body,

wherein an interval between the surface of the photosensitive body and the charger is narrower on a first side of the photosensitive body than on a second side thereof, and

the charger is provided with a roller with a taper so as to have a large diameter on a side corresponding to the first side of the photosensitive body and a small diameter on a side corresponding to the second side of the photosensitive body.

25. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein the taper of the roller is provided by forming a surface layer thereof by dipping.

26. (new): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a photosensitive body on which a photosensitive layer is provided; and

a charger opposed the photosensitive body for charging a surface of the photosensitive body,

wherein an interval between the surface of the photosensitive body and the charger is narrower on a first side of the photosensitive body than on a second side thereof, and

wherein the photosensitive layer is formed by dipping.

27. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein the first side of the photosensitive body corresponds to an upper portion and the second side of the

photosensitive body corresponds to a lower portion when the dipping is performed to the photosensitive body.

28. (new): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a photosensitive body on which a photosensitive layer is provided; and

a charger opposed the photosensitive body for charging a surface of the photosensitive body,

wherein an interval between the surface of the photosensitive body and the charger is narrower on a first side of the photosensitive body than on a second side thereof, and

wherein the charger is provided with a pair of spacers on both sides thereof for rectifying the interval between the surface of the photosensitive body and the charger by being brought into contact with the surface of the photosensitive body.

29. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein the pair of spacers are provided with different colors.

30. (new): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a photosensitive body on which a photosensitive layer is provided; and

a charger opposed the photosensitive body for charging a surface of the photosensitive body,

wherein an interval is formed between the surface of photosensitive body and the charger such that an interval difference between a first side and a second side of the photosensitive body is set to a predetermined value.

31. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the predetermined value is set in accordance with a thickness of the photosensitive layer.

32. (new): The image forming apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the charger is a scorotron charger having a discharge electrode and a grid, and

an interval between the grid and the surface of the photosensitive body is narrower on the first side of the photosensitive body than on the second side thereof.

33. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 32, wherein the interval between the grid and the surface of the photosensitive body is narrower on the first side of the photosensitive body than on the second side thereof by changing heights of grid supporting portions for supporting both sides of the grid.

34. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the charger has a discharge electrode, and

an interval between the discharge electrode and the surface of the photosensitive body is narrower on the first side of the photosensitive body than on the second side thereof by changing heights of discharge electrode supporting portions for supporting both sides of the discharge electrode.

35. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the charger is provided with a roller with a taper so as to have a large diameter on a side corresponding to the first side of the photosensitive body and a small diameter on a side corresponding to the second side of the photosensitive body.

36. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the taper of the roller is provided by forming a surface layer thereof by dipping.

37. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the photosensitive layer is formed by dipping.

38. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 37, wherein the first side of the photosensitive body corresponds to an upper portion and the second side of the photosensitive body corresponds to a lower portion when the dipping is performed to the photosensitive body.

39. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the charger is provided with a pair of spacers on both sides thereof for rectifying the interval between the surface of the photosensitive body and the charger by being brought into contact with the surface of the photosensitive body.

40. (new): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 39, wherein the pair of spacers are provided with different colors.